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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 41
47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY
Miguel P. Garcia

FOR THE LAND GRANT COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO
IMPLEMENT OPTIONS SUGGESTED BY THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY
OFFICE THAT ADDRESS THE LOSS OF LANDS BY LAND GRANT COMMUNITIES
IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature is actively reviewing
laws affecting land grant communities in an effort to address
many of the past injustices visited upon these communities by
laws insensitive to the spirit and intent of the Treaty of
Guadalupe Hidalgo; and

WHEREAS, as noted in the recently released government
accountability office report entitled "Treaty of Guadalupe
Hidalgo: Findings and Possible Options Regarding Longstanding
Community Land Grant Claims in New Mexico", the processes used
to confirm New Mexico land grants "were inefficient and created

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1 hardships for many grantees" and that even after a grant was
2 confirmed "the claims process was burdensome because of the
3 imprecision and cost of having the lands surveyed, a cost the
4 grantees had to bear for a number of years"; and

5 WHEREAS, the inefficient and burdensome nature of the
6 confirmation processes resulted in many grants losing much, if
7 not all, of their common lands; and

8 WHEREAS, the government accountability office report
9 identified a range of options that the United State congress
10 may wish to consider in response to remaining concerns
11 regarding New Mexico community land grants;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico congressional
14 delegation and the United States congress be encouraged to take
15 action in support of the remedies offered by the government
16 accountability office study, such as creating a development
17 trust fund for economic development, land acquisition and
18 educational programs or initiating a program of federal land
19 exchanges to allow for recovery of land by the community land
20 grants; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any program for the recovery
22 of lands be implemented in a manner that will avoid negatively
23 impacting the public lands in the state and Native American
24 religious or ceremonial sites; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the members of the New Mexico congressional
2 delegation.

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